(b) whether Government have received the report of the said Committee; and

(c) the main recommendations of the Committee and the number of recommendations accepted/unaccepted by Government alongwith reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Committeee on State Funding of Elections (Indrajeet Gupta Committee) was constituted on 3rd June, 1998.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Indrajeet Gupta Committee submitted its report to the Government on 14.1.1999.

(c) The report of the Committee was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 22.8.2000. The Committee recommended *inter-alia*, partial State funding of elections to the recognized political parties. In view of the recommendations of the Committee and in the light of the available information and certain developments in other countries as well as on the basis of discussions held in the all parties meeting on electoral reforms held on 13.9.2001. The Government has introduced the Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2002 in the Lok Sabha on 19.3.2002.

Implementation of Article 44 of the Constitution

†4902. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had sought a report from Government few years back on implementation of Article 44 of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Smt. Sarla Mudgal *Vs.* Union of India on 10th May, 1995 directed the Government of India to file an affidavit indicating the steps taken towards securing a "uniform civil code" for the citizens of India.

(b) An affidavit in pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Court was filed on 5th December, 1996, indicating that it would be difficult to bring in a uniform legislation applicable to all religious denominations unless there is a social acceptability to the same. It was further indicated in the said affidavit that it would be advisable and practicable to progressively move in that direction securing uniformity slowly and steadily in consonance with the social acceptability for a uniform civil code. The question of implementing directive principles for evolving a uniform civil code also necessarily involves changes in personal laws of various communities. The policy of the Government is normally not to effect any change in the personal laws unless the initiative therefor comes from the community concerned. However, reforms in the personal laws have been undertaken from time to time on initiative of the concerned community. The Government has recently taken steps in this direction by enacting and enforcing the Indian Divorce (Amendment) Act, 2001, and by introducing the Indian Succession (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

Rakesh Mohan Committee Report on Tonnage Tax Scheme

4903. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the Rakesh Mohan Committee Report on tonnage tax scheme for shipping companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has specified the areas that would get a boost under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. The report has been examined and accepted by Ministry of Shipping.

(b) to (d) The Committee has recommended that, recognizing the role of shipping in the national economy, a conducive fiscal regime should be provided so that Indian shipping can be internationally competitive. To facilitate this, Indian Shipping companies may be given an option to opt for Tonnage Tax System to be introduced with effect from the financial year 2002-2003. While, this step should substantially help to check stagnation in the growth of Indian shipping tonnage, the option to continue to remain within the Corporate Tax regime may also be provided so that those companies which prefer to be under